

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to a three-needle type vascular closure system. The closure system utilizes three needles in the form of a guiding device, an expandable needle, and a hooking device. The guiding device is used to make the initial opening in the vessel, where the opening provides access for a sheath through which a medical procedure is to be performed. The expandable needle is inserted into the vessel in which it expands radially from the needle to form a target. The hooking device is also inserted into the vessel and is used to hook the expandable needle so as to form an internal union between the hooking device and the expandable needle. The needles can then be retracted thereby extending a suture from the hooking device and forming an internal suture pass that can be used to approximate the tissue surrounding the initial opening in the vessel. In one embodiment, the suture is passed across the vessel opening prior to dilation of the vessel opening.